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Thant Back, Again Asks Bomb Halt

NEW YORK, March 5 (UPI) U.N. Secretary General Thant said today he believed the war in Vietnam would be "prolonged and bloody" unless the United States ceased bombing the North.

"I am more than ever convinced that cessation of bombing will contribute to useful talks and meaningful negotiations," he said on arrival here from a 10-day vacation in his native Burma.

[During a stop in London earlier in the day to confer with British Foreign Secretary George Brown, Thant told reporters the North Vietnamese probably would use a pause in bombing to build up their troops.

["I don't think Hanoi will guarantee not to augment," he said. He reiterated his belief that the first requisite for peace talks was for the United States to told up bombing attacks.]

At his press conference here, Thant emphasized, "Peace is not in sight."

"I believe that after the cessation of bombing peace talks would take place within a few weeks," Thant said. He said this was his own feeling, however, rather than anything in the way of suggestions made to him during his meeting with two North Vietnamese special representatives in Rangoon.

Asked if he had any message to present to President Johnson, Thant replied: "I do not consider I have any substantive message to be conveyed to the President of the United States."

He said he would transmit his views to the "representative of the governments directly involved in the conflict."

The Secretary General said the idea of reciprocity differs greatly in Hanoi from that of the United States. As an example, he said, the North Vietnamese believe that since North Vietnam is not bombing the United States, the United States must stop bombing North Vietnam.

[U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Arthur J. Goldberg told reporters in the Philippines, "The door to peace is open but our adversaries in Hanoi are not ready to accept the principle that any nation should be left alone to settle its own problems, free of force, free of violence."

[The Associated Press dispatch quoted Goldberg as saying the United States would be glad if the U.N. could play an active role in resolving the Vietnamese problem. But, he added, the war "is beyond U.N. jurisdiction."]

Associated Press

USING HIS HEAD—A helmet band keeps the New Testament carried by a Chaplain, Capt. Carter Tucker of Arkansas, out of the sweat and water in Vietnam.

Arms Deal Charged

Reuters

ALGIERS, March 5 — The United States is giving weapons to Morocco in return for bases to house American servicemen forced out of France by France's decision to withdraw from NATO's armed forces, the semi-official weekly Algerie Actualite claimed today.